

Bill removes pretrial alcohol, drug monitoring cost limits

By Associated Press
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OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - Defendants would pay the full cost of pretrial drug and alcohol monitoring under a bill passed by a Senate committee that removes a price cap for such oversight.

The Senate Law & Justice Committee approved the measure following a public hearing on Wednesday. Senate Bill 6134 comes following an unanimous Washington Supreme Court ruling last week that found that the costs of pretrial electronic alcohol monitoring ordered by a trial court cannot exceed the \$150 limit that is set in statute for pretrial supervision.

In the order, the nine-member court said that the costs for an electronic alcohol monitoring bracelet fit under the statutory meaning of "pretrial supervision."

Senate Bill 6134, sponsored by Republican Sen. Mike Padden of Spokane, says that the \$150 limitation on costs for pretrial supervision does not apply to those for pretrial alcohol and drug monitoring.